

THE FARM.

TO CURE HOOF WOUNDS.

A strict antiseptic treatment of wounds in horses' hoofs caused by nail pricks and other similar injuries has been found the most beneficial of any yet tried by the South Dakota experiment station. The method consists of paring away the horn of the hoof from the affected part until the blood oozes out. Then the hoof should be thoroughly washed out with a solution of bichloride of mercury at the rate of one part to 500 of water. After this is done, absorbent cotton saturated with the same solution should be applied to the wound and the whole hoof packed in cotton and surrounded by a bandage, which can be kept in place by a coat of tar. In this way filth is prevented from coming in contact with the wound. The original operation should be performed by a veterinarian, but the subsequent treatment can be supplied by the average farmer. All that is necessary after the first dressing is to pour a little of the solution of bichloride of mercury on the cotton that projects from the upper part of the bandage. The cotton will absorb enough of the fluid to keep the wound moistened and hasten the healing process. If such a remedy is not adopted soon after the horse is wounded, the owner runs a serious risk of losing the animal, either through blood poisoning or lockjaw.

Maintaining Fertility of the Soil.

(Continued From Last Week.)

Let us suppose that the readers lives in the corn belt of southern Illinois or Missouri, where both corn and small grain can be grown. We will suppose that he owns 160 acres of land, and wishes to practice a complete rotation that will maintain the fertility of his soil. How should he build a rotation that will do this?

In the first place, we would divide the land into four fields as nearly equal as possible. One field we would have in clover meadow, another in pasture, another in corn, and the fourth in small grain. Next year I would plow up the pasture for corn, turn the cattle onto the old meadow for pasture, sow the corn stalks to small grain and clover, and what was in small grain this year would be for meadow next year. If the soil is very poor I would make this change every year. If not, two crops of corn can be grown in succession and then one of small grain and another of corn before the change is made. By such a rotation the farmer may expect to raise 100 head of hogs; the farmer in the locality named should have at least five acres in fruit; in the pasture he should be able to maintain at least twenty head of cattle, preferably milk cows. In addition to this he should keep six head of mares with which to do the farm work.

From such a farm stocked as suggested the farmer may expect returns as follows: From fruit, \$1,000; hogs, \$1,500; milk, butter and calves, \$1,000; colts, \$300; truck, grain and farm products not needed to feed farm stock, \$500; total, \$4,300. The farmer could not expect more than this if the entire farm was in any one crop, so that it is just as profitable to follow this rotation as it would be to keep the ground in nothing but corn, oats or wheat all the time.

Let us see if mixed farming as above suggested will maintain the fertility of the soil. In the first place, we will suppose that the corn will average fifty bushels per acre and that both the grain and the fodder are removed from the ground and the fodder fed on the pasture or in the lots. This means a removing of something like eighty pounds of nitrogen, thirty pounds of phosphorus and seventy pounds of potash. The average yield of small grain of the section would mean a removal of thirty pounds of nitrogen, fifteen pounds of phosphorus and thirty pounds of potash. This makes a total of 4,400 pounds of nitrogen, 1,800 pounds of phosphorus and 4,000 pounds of potash each year from the forty acres of corn and forty acres of wheat.

To offset this loss, the horse, aside from what is lost on the highways, will produce per year no less than six tons of manure each. This totals thirty-six tons for the six horses. The United States Department of Agriculture, in one of its recent bulletins, shows that manure has been found by many analyses to contain 0.5 per cent nitrogen, 0.26 per cent phosphorus and 0.5 per cent of potash. Six horses, then, would void 400 pounds of nitrogen, 200 pounds of phosphorus and 400 pounds of potash in a year if the manure is properly preserved and applied. The department has also found that observations show that the average milk cow will void twelve tons of manure in a year,

and analyses show that the manure will contain 0.43 per cent nitrogen, 0.29 per cent phosphorus and 0.44 per cent potash. Twenty cows will void in a year 2,000 pounds of nitrogen, 1,400 pounds of phosphorus and 2,100 pounds of potash. Each hog will void one and a half tons of manure in a year, and this has been found to contain 0.85 per cent nitrogen, 0.4 per cent phosphorus and 0.3 per cent potash. The manure produced by 100 head of hogs will, therefore, contain 2,550 pounds of nitrogen, 1,200 pounds of phosphorus and 900 pounds of potash. This makes a total of 4,950 pounds of nitrogen, 2,800 pounds of phosphorus and 3,400 pounds of potash returned to the farm by the animals kept on the farm. In addition to this clover will return fertility because it is a legume and has power to gather nitrogen from the air, and is a deep-rooted crop and will bring up phosphorus and potash from the subsoil.

Just how much nitrogen it will gather from the air is a matter that can never be correctly determined. However, the Minnesota station has found that where a rotation of wheat, clover, wheat and oats is grown the plot will show an annual gain of 61 pounds of nitrogen per acre. In other words, the clover will return to the soil 244 pounds more nitrogen per acre in one year than can be removed by the two crops of wheat, one crop of oats and one crop of clover hay. This conclusion would lead us to believe that a crop of clover will return to each acre about 400 pounds of nitrogen, more than is needed to produce the crop and is lost by rapid decay of humus and in the drainage waters. But to be on the safe side of the matter let us estimate only fifty pounds per acre, or 2,000 pounds for the forty acres.

The clover, being a deep-rooted crop, will gather considerable phosphorus and potash from the subsoil. Some of this will be used in maturing and making the hay, and some of it will be left in the roots and stubs. Some estimate that the amount thus brought up will exceed 100 pounds of phosphorus per acre and 200 pounds of potash. This estimate we think is exceedingly large, but we do think that nearly if not quite as much of these elements are brought from the subsoil as is needed to make the crop of clover hay. Taking this as truth and figuring the nitrogen returned at only fifty pounds per acre, we have the total return to the farm from the manure and clover of 6,550 pounds of nitrogen, 2,800 pounds of phosphorus and 3,400 pounds of potash. By again considering the amount removed by the crops, it can be seen that we have a gain of over 2,500 pounds of nitrogen, which is ample for loss that may be expected from the rapid decay of humus and in the drainage waters, while the phosphorus and potash are practically the same, thus showing that it is possible to maintain the fertility of the soil in this simple manner.

By rotating the pasture as well as the crops the stock are changed from one part of the farm to another, and they apply a great deal of their manure themselves, while they are in the pasture. Thus the question of the application of manure is materially reduced and the land receives the manure while it is fresh and before it has lost any of its fertility.

The whole question of how to maintain the fertility of the farm land resolves itself into the one thought: Maintain the supply of humus in the soil, and the supply of plant food will also be maintained. The supply of humus can best be maintained by the growth of clover in rotation with other crops and the keeping of enough stock on the farm to consume all the forage and hay produced and a considerable of the grain. If this is done the fertility of the farm will be maintained. Analyses, as I have shown above, prove that this is true. The experience of practical farmers also proves that it is true. When the common farm crops or the prevailing crops of the section are grown, the fertility of the soil can be maintained in the very way I have suggested. Of course, if exhaustive crops, like some of the garden crops, are grown, then the grower will have to resort to the use of commercial fertilizers. But where the common farm crops are grown, nature has provided a way to maintain the fertility of the soil by simple methods and with materials produced on the farm.

WALLACE E. SHERLOCK.

A PROMINENT TRAINMAN.

The many friends of G. H. Hausan, Engineer L. E. and W. R. R., as present living in Lima, O., will be pleased to know of his recovery from threatened kidney disease. He says: "I was cured by using Foley's Kidney Cure, which I recommend to all, especially to trainmen, who are usually similarly afflicted." For sale by Louisa Drug Co.

Mountaineer Hospitality.

"HELLO!"

You enter no mountaineer's yard without that announcing cry. It was meditative, the Blight said, positively — two lorn damsels, a benighted knight partially scrippled of his armor by bush and sharpened-edged rock, a gray palfrey and she wished I had a horn to wind. I wanted to "horn" badly enough — but it was not the kind men wind. By and by we got a response.

"Hello!" was the answer, as an opened door let out into the yard a brood band of light. Could we stay all night? The voice replied that the owner would see "Pap." "Pap" seemed willing, and the boy opened the gate and into the house went the Blight and the little sister. Shortly, I followed.

There, all in one room, lighted by a huge wood fire, rafters above, puncheon floor beneath — cane-bottomed chairs and two beds the only furniture — "pap," barefooted, the old mother in the chimney corner with a pipe, strings of red pepper pods, beans and herbs hanging around and above, a married daughter with a child at her breast, two or three children with yellow hair and bare feet — all looking with all their eyes at the two visitors who had dropped upon them from another world. The Blight's eyes were brighter than usual — that was the only sign she gave that she was not in her own drawing-room. Apparently she saw nothing strange or unusual even, but there was really nothing that she did not see or hear and absorb, as few others than the Blight can.

Straightaway, the old woman knocked the ashes out of her pipe.

"I reckon you hain't had nothin' to eat," she said and disappeared. The old man asked questions, the young mother rocked her baby on her knees the children got less shy and drew near the fireplace, the Blight and the little sister exchanged a furtive smile and the contrast the extremes in American civilization, as shown in that little cabin, interested me mightily.

"Yer snack's ready," said the old woman. The old man carried the chairs into the kitchen, and when I followed the girls were seated. The chairs were so low that their chins came barely over their plates and demure and serious as they were they surely looked most comical. There was the usual bacon and corn-bread and potatoes and sour milk, and the two girls struggled with the rude fare nobly.

Moonshining in New York.

"Don't talk to me about moonshining in Kentucky," said the Internal Revenue Agent. "There is more moonshining going on all the time in little old New York than could be done in ten Kentuckys. In the crowded sections of the East and West sides, stills spring up right along and for a while conduct a flourishing business in the low-grade whiskey they manufacture. You see, it doesn't take much trouble to equip a still with corn and yeast, and start in to make the mash which is finally turned out as a pretty poor sort of whiskey. The great difficulty is in getting rid of the peculiar smoke and odor from the stills without exciting suspicion. This is usually attempted by running the still in connection with a dye shop or some other chemical enterprise as a 'blind.' We keep watch on all such establishments and have the town well-covered by sharp-eyed and sharp-tongued agents. We are constantly arresting these small moonshiners and sending them to jail. But enough spring up in their places for you to say with safety that, as I say, there's more moonshining going on in New York City right along than there could be in ten Kentuckys."

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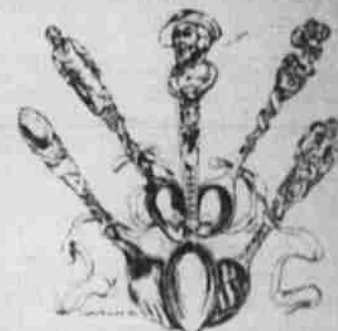
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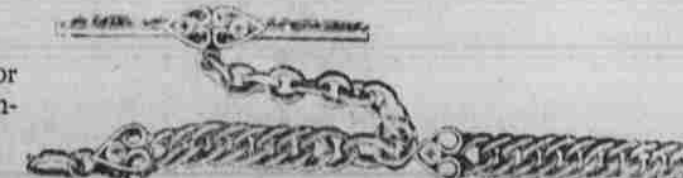
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